



PROFILE

Nurtured talent

After showing early signs of sailing ability, Ted Hackney honed his skills at the CYCA Youth Sailing Academy. He is living proof that sailing can, and will, take you anywhere.

TED Hackney is a passionate sailor and his love for the sport is clear. Hackney first stepped onto dinghies at the Vaucluse Sailing Club and has an early childhood memory of building boats (albeit toy boats) at the tender age of three.

Today, Ted is an in-demand sailor having honed his skills at the Cruising Yacht Club of Australia's Youth Sailing Academy (YSA) for the last eight years. His first introduction to the YSA was through a school holiday development course he enrolled in after showing promise in school racing Sabots and Flying 11s.

From there, Ted was invited to participate in the Advanced Match Racing Squad and he hasn't looked back. Hackney now divides his time between Sydney and overseas. He is a crew member of Jim Richardson's Farr 40 *Barking Mad*, Gennadi Timchenko's RC44 *Katusha* and is also a team member of *Objective Australia*, who will be competing in the Youth America's Cup in September.

"The key things I learnt during my time at the YSA were work ethic: turn up on time, ready to train; organisation: learning how to fit everything in and do everything well; and sailing skills:

learning positions on boats, tactics and boat handling," Hackney said.

"I'm still continuing to learn – even a few days ago I stepped onto *Accenture Yeah Baby* for a twilight race sailing with fellow YSA graduate Evan Walker and I still learnt things," he added. "I love twilight racing – it's competitive but fun. Everyone is in a great mindset – they come to the CYCA after a hard day in the office and just want to unwind by enjoying the sport they love."

One of the key reasons the CYCA Youth Sailing Academy was founded 20 years ago was to develop young



STANDING TALL
Above: Hackney (centre) sailing to second place in the 2008 Governor's Cup. Below: With Will Ryan (left) and Sean O'Rourke (centre) receive the trophy.

sailors into crew members for CYCA members' boats. And it is this founding statement that has ensured the YSA is one of the leading youth sail training facilities in Australia today.

"The training we received at the YSA ensured that we sailed with a variety of different people and we all knew how to sail in each other's position if we needed to. It's taught me to adapt really quickly to whatever boat I step onto and to do my job on the boat to the best of my abilities. If you do your job well then everything goes smoothly," Hackney said.

"There is no other training squad like the YSA – the support we get from the members at the Club is invaluable. I love going out on different boats and I've been able to experience a few at the CYCA from a Sydney 38 to a super maxi."

Ted had the opportunity to represent the CYCA at many national and international match racing regattas including the Governor's Cup three times and numerous national titles.

"My first overseas trip was to the Governor's Cup when I was 15 and we finished eighth. I was sailing with Tom Barker and Will Ryan. I hadn't done much competitive racing before then so it was a huge learning curve."

One of the best results overseas was Hackney's third Governor's Cup in 2008 – and although the team didn't win, they finished second – it was the self-management and team dynamics that was important.

"The team – Will Ryan, Sean O'Rourke and myself all went to university together and we'd been training at the YSA together. Neville Wittey was our coach and I gained a lot of knowledge from him about preparing for a campaign. We trained together and did everything we could have done to be in the best position possible to win but unfortunately it didn't come off for us," Ted recalled.

Another great success for Hackney was winning the Warren Jones International Youth Regatta and the Colin Mullins International Youth Regatta in 2011. "Everything just worked – we all knew our roles. It was a relatively new team but Evan showed great leadership. I came home absolutely exhausted but really satisfied as we got the result that we'd been training for."

From this result, Hackney trained with David Gilmour in Perth and got into competitive match racing, which saw him compete in the World Match Racing tour with Keith Swinton's Black Swan racing last year. The team finished fourth, having been beaten by

the eventual champions. He still has a tour card for the upcoming season and will continue to pursue match racing as well as his keelboat sailing and of course, the Youth America's Cup.

"I'd like to take the step up to the America's Cup – I think it's every sailors dream. Sailing in the RC44s is such fun – they are fast and technical," Hackney said. "I'm also really enjoying the Farr 40s. It's hard work – you're hiking a lot of the time but when you have 10 people on a boat working all as one unit, it's awesome. We recently won the Farr 40 division in the Key West regatta."

"The Youth Sailing Academy is the main reason I've got to where I am in my sailing career. I've met so many people – many of whom I now classify as good friends. The camaraderie of this sport (and the CYCA and YSA) is what makes you want to keep participating.

"The YSA really helps lay the foundations of sailing and match racing skills – that's why I come back and coach. As long as you love the sport – the skills just develop. You can't teach the love of the sport – so it's really great to see the development of the younger YSA students. The quality of the coaches at the YSA is outstanding and there is continuity throughout the training squads," Ted added.

"I just have to figure out how to combine my mechanical engineering degree with sailing and keep making myself the best sailor I can be." ⚓

YSA 2013

Key dates

May 4 Winter Squads commence

July 25 Launch of the ten new Elliott 7m boats.

August 3-4
Club Marine NSW Youth Match Racing Championship.

September 20-24
Australian Open and Womens Match Racing Championships.

September 25-29
Australian Youth Match Racing Championship.

September 27 Alumni party.

School Holiday Courses
will be conducted in April, October and December.

www.cyca.com.au/youth



NEARLY THERE
The Elliotts are getting the finishing touches applied before shipping to Australia.



NEW BUILDS

The big build

Excitement is building as construction of a new fleet of Elliott 7m boats for the Youth Sailing Academy nears completion.

CHAIRMAN of the Training and Development Committee Anthony Dunn is pleased to report that one of the major milestone events to celebrate the 20 year anniversary of the CYCA Youth Sailing Academy, the construction of the Youth Sailing Academy's new training fleet of ten Elliott 7.0m boats, is well underway.

Construction commenced on the Elliotts in September last year at the McConaghy Boats factory in China.

A few weeks ago, lamination of most of the components was completed, including 10 decks, eight hulls, eight rudders, seven keels and 10 sets of internal structures (foot chocks and tabernacles). The deck fittings, which have been supplied by Harken, have also been installed.

Greg Elliott from Elliott Marine has been supervising the production and assembly on behalf of the CYCA.

"I am pleased to report that the

production quality is of a very high standard and all 10 yachts are due to be ready for shipping to Australia in April."

Once the boats arrive in Australia, Noakes Shipyards will step the masts, antifoul the boats and sponsor branding will be installed.

"The Training and Development Committee is very pleased with the progress of the construction of our fleet of Elliott 7m boats. The standard of construction is high and the design fits the CYCA Youth Sailing Academy's needs perfectly. I can't wait to see them in their berths at the CYCA marina and being used in their first regatta," Dunn said.

The fleet will be officially christened on Thursday 25 July 2013 at the CYCA, and will make their first regatta debut in the Club Marine NSW Youth Match Racing Championships, conducted from 3-4 August. ⚓